

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-07 CEA-01 OES-07 /098 W
-----122077 051241Z /10

R 040830Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1535

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, ASEAN, US
SUBJ: REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN

REF: STATE 82203

1. EMBOFFS PASSED SUBSTANCE REFTEL TO LEE CHIONG GIAM,
REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC DIRECTOR OF MFA. LEE WAS
AGREEABLE TO IDEA OF SENDING GOVERNMENT OFFICER
INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO WASHINGTON AS PART
OF ASEAN TEAM IF ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AGREED TO THE
PROPOSAL.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE REGIONAL AID PROJECTS,
LEE SUGGESTED THAT BEST PROCEDURE WOULD BE FOR EACH
ASEAN GOVERNMENT OT SUBMIT PROJECT PROPOSAL PRIMARILY
BENEFITING THAT COUNTRY BUT WHICH COULD BE EXPANDED TO
INCLUDE BENEFITS TO OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS ONCE IT WAS
ESTABLISHED ADVANTAGES OF SUCH A PROCEDURE, SAID
LEE, ARE THAT (A) EACH COUNTRY WOULD HAVE A "SYMBOL
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OF THE MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE" AND (B) THE PROBLEM OF
DIFFERING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES NEED NOT
IMPEDE THE FLOW OF AID.

3. LEE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS PROJECT FOR SINGAPORE
(PROBABLY IN SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS) WITHIN
GOS. EMBOFFS ALSO URGED HIM TO SUGGEST, IF POSSIBLE,

SUITABLE SINGLE PROJECTS FOR THE REGION.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING WITHIN EMBASSY IDEA OF REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN EXPORT MARKETING WHICH WOULD ASSIST ASEAN GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN EXPORTING TO DEVELOPED MARKETS. SUCH PROGRAM WOULD LINK TO DAS HEGINBOTHAM'S IDEAS FOR REGIONAL MECHANISMS TO AVOID HEAVY CONCENTRATION IN MANUFACTURED ITEMS SENSITIVE IN US MARKET; I.E., MARKETING RESEARCH WOULD IDENTIFY LESS SENSITIVE ITEMS AND ASEAN MANUFACTURERS COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PRODUCE THESE FOR EXPORTS TO US MARKET. SUCH A PROGRAM COULD BE FREESTANDING OR IMPLEMENTED THROUGH EXISTING BODIES, SUCH AS ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT IN MANILA. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED THIS IDEA BRIEFLY WITH LEE WHO SAID THAT SIMILAR PROPOSAL WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN EEC/ASEAN CONTEXT. LEE SUGGESTED THAT FOCUS THEREFORE SHOULD BE US MARKET. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES PROBLEMS INHERENT IN HELPING PROMOTE EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES, BUT SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO ASEAN COUNTRIES. IT COULD BE REASONABLY DEFENDED AS EFFORT TO RATIONALLIZE STRUCTURE OF ASEAN EXPORTS TO MINIMIZE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON US PRODUCERS.

INGRAHAM

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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: EAID, US, ASEAN
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